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# China's global influence worries U.S. majority: AP-NORC poll

By J. BOAK/H. FINGERHUT  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Just 40% of U.S. adults approve of how President Joe Biden is handling relations with China, a new poll shows, with a majority anxious about Beijing's influence as the White House finds its agenda increasingly shaped by global rivalries. About 6 in 10 say they are gravely concerned about China, the world's second-largest economy after the United States, according to the survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Biden has portrayed his domestic agenda on infrastructure and computer chip development as part of a broader competition with China, arguing that the future is at stake. Tensions with China are crackling after government officials discovered and shot down a Chinese spy balloon two weeks ago.



U.S. President Joe Biden, right, and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands before their meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit meeting, Nov. 14, 2022, in Nusa Dua, in Bali, Indonesia.

Associated Press

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# China's global influence worries U.S. majority: AP-NORC poll

Continued from Front

The Biden administration has preserved tariffs on imports from China and restricted the sale of advanced computer chips to the country, angering Chinese officials who want to fuel faster economic growth.

There are additional concerns over whether China will provide some form of military support for Russia's war in Ukraine. As the war nears its one-year mark, the poll shows that serious concern about the threat Russia poses to the U.S. has fallen. Concern about China now outpaces that about Russia; last year, about even percentages had named the two countries as a threat.

Biden has tried to frame relations with China as a competition with boundaries, rather than as a larger geopolitical clash.

"We seek competition, not conflict, with China," Biden said last week. "We're not looking for a new Cold War. ... We'll responsibly manage that competition so that it doesn't veer into conflict."

Approval of Biden's foreign policy is roughly in line with views of his presidency more broadly, a possible sign that his agenda is not viewed through its individual components but larger



President Joe Biden listens as he meets virtually with Chinese President Xi Jinping from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Nov. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

perceptions of the president himself.

The poll found that 45% of U.S. adults say they approve of Biden's overall performance, while 54% disapprove. That's similar to views of Biden in recent months. Forty-one percent praised the president in late January and 43% did in December.

Concern about China's global influence as a threat to the U.S. is similar to last year but has grown steadily in recent years from 54% just after Biden took office and 48% in January 2020.

Melvin Dunlap, 68, said

Biden needed to be careful with China, given the U.S. reliance on Chinese manufacturing. The Peyton, Colorado, resident said he believes Biden "has a good heart" and "means well," generally approving of Biden's approach.

"You tread cautiously," said Dunlap, who retired from law enforcement. "You show strength, not weakness."

Fewer adults feel as wary about Russia as they did just after its military invaded Ukraine last year. Now, 53% say they're seriously concerned about Russia, down

from 64% in March 2022.

Michael Marchek, 33, an engineer in the Atlanta area, said Russia's military has struggled in Ukraine, failing to achieve its goal of taking the capital of Kyiv and sustaining steep casualties that showed a sense of disarray.

"I was more concerned about Russia before they proved they were less effective than they appeared to be on the surface," Marchek said. "They played their hand and they did not play their hand effectively. They have nuclear capabilities and

other things, but I don't think they're interested in using them." Biden made a surprise visit to Kyiv on Monday, declaring to that country's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, "You remind us that freedom is priceless; it's worth fighting for for as long as it takes. And that's how long we're going to be with you, Mr. President, for as long as it takes." To Ukraine's defense, the U.S. has committed tanks, armored vehicles, a thousand artillery systems, more than 2 million rounds of artillery ammunition and more than 50 advanced launch rocket systems, and anti-ship and air defense systems.

While Biden views the preservation of NATO and countering Russian aggression as necessary, most U.S. adults say it should not come at the expense of their economy. Oil, natural gas and food prices initially worsened after Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine last February, causing U.S. inflation to hit a 40-year high in June. Inflation has since eased, and the U.S. and much of Europe have so far evaded recessions despite the expected damage. Russia has adapted to financial sanctions and export controls designed to erode its ability to fund the war. □



An emergency crew works at the site of a Norfolk Southern train derailment in Van Buren Township, Mich., near Detroit, on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

By JOSH BOAK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is calling on

congressional Republicans to increase the fines levied on rail companies for safety violations, as a fiery Feb. 3

## White House urging higher fines for train safety violations

train derailment in Ohio has become a political lightning rod.

There are still safety and health concerns among residents of East Palestine after dozens of train cars being pulled by Norfolk Southern went off the tracks and released chemicals into the area. The incident has now evolved into a feud between Democrats and Republicans.

"The test will be whether Republicans work with the Biden-Harris administration to restore safety protections and pass legislation increasing fines on rail com-

panies when they cause accidents like this," said White House deputy press secretary Andrew Bates. "Do they stand with us and communities like East Palestine or are they still owned by the rail lobby?"

Under current law, the White House said, the highest fine that can be charged to companies for violations involving the transportation of hazardous materials is \$225,455. That's less than 1% of Norfolk Southern's profits last year of \$3.27 billion.

Former President Donald Trump, who is seeking

the 2024 GOP nomination, went to the village on Wednesday and said the community has been met with "indifference and betrayal." Republican lawmakers have criticized President Joe Biden for not going to the site; Biden was in Ukraine and Poland this week.

But his administration is pushing back. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg toured East Palestine on Thursday and said Trump should call for the reversals of deregulation that occurred during his term in the White House. □



## Putin, Afghans among top gift givers to Bidens in 2021

BY MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Russia's president and the deposed leader of Afghanistan were among the top gift givers to President Joe Biden and his family in 2021, according to federal documents published on Thursday.

In happier times between all three countries, Vladimir Putin gave Biden a \$12,000 lacquer writing box and pen when they met at a highly anticipated summit in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2021.

And, then-Afghan President Mohammed Ashraf Ghani and his wife gave the U.S. president and first lady Jill Biden silk rugs worth an estimated \$28,800 later that month.

Relations between the U.S. and Russia turned sour shortly after the Geneva meeting and have plummeted since Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February. Ghani, meanwhile, fled Afghanistan shortly after the U.S. withdrew from the country on Biden's orders in August, 2021.

Biden also in June received a brass and lapis lazuli jewelry box, worth an estimated \$1,150 from Abdullah Abdullah, who was then considered to be the num-



President Joe Biden, right, meets with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, left, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, June 25, 2021.

Associated Press

ber 2 in the Afghan government. And Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was given a carpet valued at \$2,650 in March from Ghani.

The details were contained in the State Department's annual accounting of gifts to U.S. officials from world leaders posted on the website of the Federal Register on Thursday. The formal publication of the list, covering 2021, will come on Friday.

All of the Putin and Ghani gifts were transferred to

the National Archives, a requirement for any gift to a U.S. official valued at more than \$415. The recipient has the option of paying the estimated value and keeping the gift.

However, Biden decided to retain, at least for official display, a photograph of the late British monarch Queen Elizabeth II. The photo, in a silver frame was presented to the president on the occasion of a Group of Seven summit in southeast England and is estimated

to be worth \$2,200.

According to the records, Putin gave Biden a "Kholuy Lacquer Miniature Workshop Desk Writing Set and Pen" on the occasion of their meeting in Geneva on June 16, 2021.

There are no other gifts from Putin or other Russian officials to Biden or U.S. officials documented in the filing.

Later that month, well after Biden had given the order for American forces to withdraw from Afghani-

stan in April, Ghani and his wife, Rula, gave Joe and Jill Biden two silk carpets: one valued \$9,600 and the other \$19,200, according to the list.

At the time, U.S. officials believed that Ghani's government and security forces could survive the withdrawal of American troops. A White House statement from Biden's meeting with Ghani on June 25th said that "the U.S. and Afghan leaders firmly agreed that although U.S. troops are leaving Afghanistan, the strong bilateral partnership will continue."

In another relationship turned sour, Secretary of State Antony Blinken reported receiving a porcelain vase worth \$2,000 from the former foreign policy chief of the Chinese Communist Party, Yang Jiechi. The exchange took place in March, 2021, just two months after the Biden administration took office and the vase is now with the General Services Administration.

Two years later, the U.S. and China are now at odds on numerous issues ranging from Russia's war in Ukraine to Chinese policies regarding Taiwan, Tibet, the South China Sea, Hong Kong and human rights. □

## U.S. mass killings linked to extremism spiked over last decade

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of U.S. mass killings linked to extremism over the past decade was at least three times higher than the total from any other 10-year period since the 1970s, according to a report by the Anti-Defamation League.

The report, provided to The Associated Press ahead of its public release Thursday, also found that all extremist killings identified in 2022 were linked to right-wing extremism, with an especially high number linked to white supremacy. They include a racist mass shoot-

ing at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, that left 10 Black shoppers dead and a mass shooting that killed five people at an LGBT nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that we live in an age of extremist mass killings," the report from the group's Center on Extremism says. Between two and seven domestic extremism-related mass killings occurred every decade from the 1970s to the 2000s, but in the 2010s that number skyrocketed to 21, the report found.

The trend has since continued with five domestic

extremist mass killings in 2021 and 2022, as many as there were during the first decade of the new millennium. The number of victims has risen as well. Between 2010 and 2020, 164 people died in ideological extremist-related mass killings, according to the report. That's much more than in any other decade except the 1990s, when the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City killed 168 people. Several factors combined to drive the numbers up between 2010 and 2020. There were shootings inspired by the rise of the Islamic State group as well as a hand-



A group prays at the site of a memorial for the victims of the Buffalo supermarket shooting outside the Tops Friendly Market on May 21, 2022, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

ful targeting police officers after civilian shootings and others linked to the increasing promotion of violence by white supremacists, said Mark Pitcavage, a senior research fellow at the ADL's Center on Extremism.

The center tracks slayings linked to various forms of extremism in the United States and compiles them in an annual report. It tracked 25 extremism-related killings last year, a decrease from the 33 the year before. □



# Northern border immigrant death highlights crossing spike

By **WILSON RING**  
**Associated Press**

The death of a Mexican man who had just entered the United States from Canada illegally is highlighting the spike in illegal crossings along the border between Quebec and parts of New England, officials say. The number of illegal border crossers is tiny compared with those entering the country illegally from Mexico, but the death of the man who entered Vermont from Quebec late Sunday marked the area's first death in recent memory of someone who crossed into the U.S. illegally. His entry took place in an area near Derby Line about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south-east of Montreal.

There have been fatalities of people seeking to cross on the Canadian side of the border. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which is responsible for border security in Canada, report their agents have mounted a number of search and rescue operations this winter in the region of people intending to cross into the United States from Canada. Border officials on both sides of the line have been warning about the dangers to the crossers and those who could be sent to rescue them. Last year, a family of four



**In this surveillance image provided by the United States Border Patrol Swanton sector, two individuals illegally cross the U.S./Canada border during January 2023 in the Vermont, New Hampshire and New York enforcement sector.**

Indian nationals died of exposure in Manitoba near its border with Minnesota and North Dakota. In December, a 44-year-old Haitian citizen who had been trying to enter the United States illegally from Canada was found dead in a wooded area near St-Bernard-de-Lacolle, Quebec, not far from Champlain, New York, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) south of Montreal. In April 2019, a Dominican man also died in Canada not far from Champlain. "As we progress deeper into winter and continue to

address the ongoing pace of illicit cross-border traffic, the level of concern for the lives and welfare of our Border Patrol Agents and those we are encountering — particularly vulnerable populations — continues to climb," the Border Patrol's Sector Chief Patrol Agent Robert Garcia said in a news release this month before the death of the immigrant in Vermont. RCMP spokeswoman Cpl. Tasha Adams said agents were involved in at least three search and rescue operations in January, including one the weekend

of Jan. 28, when the family of a person seeking to cross into the United States called Canadian authorities from the U.S. to report they had lost contact with him in an area just north of the border. Rescuers later found the man in the Mansonville, Quebec, a short distance west of Derby Line, after tracking him for about 90 minutes through deep snow. He was conscious but suffering from hypothermia and frostbite. "These are situations that place our officers at risk because of the weather and

terrain they trek through to locate these individuals in distress," Adams said in an email.

Statistics from U.S. Customs and Border Protection show that agents in the sector that includes New Hampshire, Vermont and parts of upstate New York apprehended 1,513 illegal border crossers between Oct. 1, 2022 through Jan. 31, 2023, up from 160 in the same period the year before. But the total number apprehended along the entire northern border this fiscal year, 2,227, is a small fraction of those apprehended along the U.S.-Mexican border during that same period, 762,383.

Nevertheless, federal court documents filed in some of the northern border crossing cases in Vermont describe people who legally enter Canada where they pay people to take them to the border. Once they cross into the U.S., they then meet with someone else who takes them deeper into the country.

In the Feb. 19 case that led to the Mexican man's death, court records say Border Patrol agents were notified just before 11 p.m. after a surveillance camera detected possible illegal border crossers in the town of Holland, about 2 miles (3.25 kilometers) east of Derby Line. □



**Vern Holaday, owner of Alamo Inn and chair of the Alamo town board, poses for a photo on U.S. Route 93, on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, in Alamo, Nev.**

**Associated Press**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Alcohol sales will soon be allowed in a tiny Nevada town where religious roots led to a de-

CADES-LONG ban on buying beer, wine and liquor. Bars still won't be allowed, but stores will be able to sell

## Tiny Nevada town gets county OK to lift ban on alcohol sales

alcohol in Alamo after the Lincoln County Commission on Tuesday unanimously endorsed a local board vote taken several months ago to repeal a prohibition adopted in 1985, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported. Many of the approximately 1,100 people who live in the unincorporated jurisdiction about a 90-minute drive north of Las Vegas are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Town Board Chairman Vern Holaday told the Review-Journal ahead

of the county commission vote. The faith, widely known as the Mormon church, preaches abstinence from alcohol. Alamo's repeal could become effective in about 30 days, Lincoln County District Attorney Dylan Frehner said. That will leave Panaca as the only remaining town in Nevada to prohibit alcohol sales, the Review-Journal reported. That town of 1,000 people is the Lincoln County seat and is a more than two-hour drive north

of Las Vegas. A handful of communities in neighboring Utah, where The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint is based, also prohibit alcohol sales. Voters in Blanding, a rural town of about 3,300 residents that attracts visitors to national parks including the Grand Canyon rejected a 2017 ballot measure that would have allowed beer and wine sales for the first time in more than 80 years. In Hyde Park, population 4,000, voters in 2013 lifted a ban on alcohol sales. □



# Gaza rockets, Israeli strikes follow deadly West Bank raid

By TIA GOLDENBERG

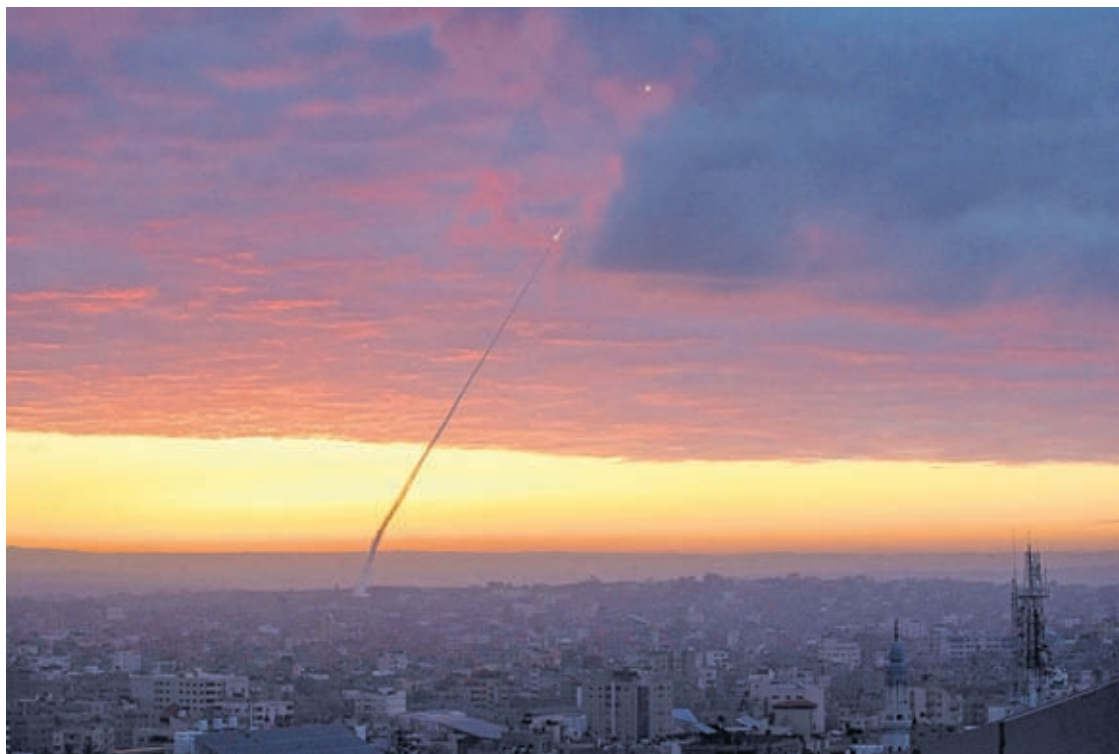
Associated Press

**TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)** — Palestinian militants in Gaza launched rockets at southern Israel and Israeli aircraft struck targets in the coastal enclave early Thursday after a gunbattle triggered by an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank killed 10 Palestinians.

The bloodshed extends one of the deadliest periods in years in the West Bank, where dozens of Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since the start of the year. Palestinian attacks on Israelis in 2023 have killed 11 people.

The Israeli military said Palestinian militants fired six rockets and two anti-aircraft missiles from the Gaza Strip toward the country's south early Thursday. Air defenses intercepted five of the rockets and one landed in an open field, according to the military. The missiles did not hit their targets. The attacks were not immediately claimed by Palestinian militant groups.

Israeli aircraft then struck several targets in northern and central Gaza, including a weapons manufacturing site and a military compound belonging to the Hamas militant group that rules the enclave. There were no reports of injuries in Israel or Gaza from the rocket attacks or strikes.



Anti-aircraft missiles are launched from the Gaza Strip after an Israeli airstrike, Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023.

The violence comes in the first weeks of Israel's new far-right government, which has promised to take a tough line against Palestinians, and as security forces step up arrest raids of wanted militants in the West Bank. Israel says the raids begun in the wake of a series of deadly Palestinian attacks last spring are meant to dismantle militant networks and thwart future assaults.

But the operations have shown few signs of slowing the violence and Wednesday's resulted in one of the bloodiest battles in nearly

a year in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, raising the likelihood of further bloodshed. "We have a clear policy: to strike terror powerfully and to deepen our roots in our land," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a meeting of his Cabinet. "We will settle accounts with whoever harms Israeli citizens." Israeli police stepped up security in sensitive areas on Thursday, while Hamas said its patience was "running out." Islamic Jihad, another militant group, vowed to retaliate.

A day after a raid in Janu-

ary on the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank that killed 10 Palestinians, a Palestinian shot and killed seven people outside a synagogue in east Jerusalem. On Thursday, police said security guards at the entrance to a West Bank settlement shot and lightly wounded a woman who police said attempted to stab the guards. Among the 10 killed in Wednesday's raid in Nablus were Palestinian men aged 72 and 61, and a 16-year-old boy, according to health officials. Scores of others were wounded.

Various Palestinian militant groups claimed six of the dead as members. There was no immediate word on whether the others belonged to armed groups. Officials also said a 66-year-old man died from tear gas inhalation.

In response to the raid, a strike was called across the West Bank, and schools, universities and shops all shut down in protest. Schools and universities in Gaza and most shops in east Jerusalem were also closed. Israel captured the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek those territories for their hoped-for independent state.

The Israeli military said it entered Nablus, the West Bank's commercial center and a city known as a militant stronghold, to arrest three militants suspected in previous shooting attacks. The main suspect was wanted in the killing of an Israeli soldier last fall.

Wednesday's four-hour operation left a broad swath of damage in a centuries-old marketplace in Nablus. In the Old City, shops were riddled with bullets, parked cars were crushed, and blood stained the cement ruins. Furniture from the destroyed home was scattered among mounds of debris. □

Associated Press

# Stockholm police head found dead after report criticized him

**STOCKHOLM (AP)** — A senior Swedish police officer has been found dead in his home, hours after the release of an internal report that found a conflict of interest regarding decisions he had made about a former employee with whom he had a relationship, police said.

Mats Löfving, the chief of police in the Stockholm region, was found dead in his home in the city of Norrköping, police said. He was 61. The cause of death was not immediately clear and police opened an investigation as a matter of stan-

dard procedure.

Löfving's conduct was under review both by an internal audit and a criminal investigation, in a case that shook Sweden's police leadership and made headlines across the Scandinavian nation.

The probes focused on his relationship with a female employee while he was the head of the police National Operations Department. The internal investigation on Wednesday found there was a conflict of interest when Löfving made decisions regarding the employee's salary and

position. The investigator said those decisions raised questions about Löfving's judgement as a manager and suggested that the police leadership consider terminating his employment. Later Wednesday, police responding to a report of an injured person at Löfving's home found him dead inside.

"It is incredibly tragic," Sweden's chief of police Anders Thornberg said late Wednesday. "My thoughts go to Mats Löfving, his next of kin and work colleagues." Prosecutors later said they would drop the

investigation into gross misconduct. □



Stockholm regional police chief Mats Löfving is pictured on Sept. 30, 2022.

Associated Press



# Mexico president foresees court challenges to electoral law

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** —Mexico's president said Thursday he expects court challenges to a new law that would cut money for thousands of staffers at the country's electoral agency and weaken oversight of campaign spending. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who has long criticized the agency for costing taxpayers too much and paying high salaries, said he'll sign the new bill into law even though electoral authorities say it could weaken democracy in Mexico.

The bill was approved late Wednesday by Mexico's Senate, 72-50.

The new law would cut salaries, funding for local election offices and training for citizens who operate and oversee polling stations. It would also reduce sanctions for candidates who fail to report campaign spending.

López Obrador said he expects court challenges to the bill, like those that have previously been filed against many of his administration's reforms.

"All of this is part of normal politics in a democracy," López Obrador said, adding that he believed the measure should survive constitutional challenges because none of it was



**Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks during the North America Summit, at the National Palace in Mexico City, Jan. 10, 2023.**

"outside the law."

While López Obrador was nonchalant about the court challenges, in the past he has frequently attacked Mexico's judiciary and claimed judges are part of a conservative conspiracy against his administration.

Elections in Mexico are expensive by international standards, in part because almost all legal campaign financing is, by law, supplied by the government. The electoral institute also issues the secure voter ID cards that are the most

commonly accepted form of identification in Mexico, and oversees balloting in the remote and often dangerous corners of the country.

Protests are already planned in multiple cities in Mexico against the reform, in part encouraged by the electoral institute itself. Federico Estevez, a retired political science professor at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico, said the opposition claims that López Obrador is "dismantling democracy" are exaggerated.

"It's not about undoing democracy, it's a different conception of democracy," Estevez said. "It's more majoritarian, and less dependent on inadequate, unproductive and mistaken elites."

López Obrador remains highly popular in Mexico, with approval ratings of around 60%, but cannot run for re-election. Part of his popular appeal comes from railing against high-paid government bureaucrats, and he has been angered by the fact that some top electoral officials

are paid more than the president.

His legislative initiative, known as "Plan B", was proposed by the president in December after he did not obtain enough votes in Congress for even deeper electoral changes that would have changed the size and makeup of Congress.

The president has repeatedly denied that the reform package could put the elections in Mexico at risk.

López Obrador and his supporters have been critical of the electoral institute since 2006 when he came within 0.56% of the vote of winning the presidency and denounced his loss as fraudulent. He and his supporters launched a mass protest movement.

"This is still driven by his grievances from from those years," Estevez noted.

López Obrador later won the presidency by a wide margin in 2018.

Many in Mexico see the electoral institute as a key pillar of the country's modern democracy since 2000. López Obrador's ruling Morena party is favored in next year's national elections and the opposition is in disarray, which would seem to give the president little incentive to attack the electoral institute. □

# Amid crackdown on dissent, Tunisian leader turns on migrants

**By BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA**  
**Associated Press**

**TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)** — Tunisian authorities on Thursday said they have arrested dozens of migrants near the Algerian border, two days after Tunisia's increasingly authoritarian leader claimed there's a plot to erase his country's identity by bringing in sub-Saharan Africans.

President Kais Saied said Tuesday that "urgent measures" were needed to address the entry of irregular immigrants from sub-Saharan countries, "with their lot of violence, crimes and unacceptable practices."

He ordered a rapid response via "diplomatic, se-

curity, military fronts" and strict application of the law on foreigners. Saied's comments at a National Security



**Migrants from Tunisia gesture as they sail in a wooden boat as they are assisted by crew members of the Spanish NGO Open Arms, sixteen miles west of the Italian island of Pantelleria in the Mediterranean sea, on Friday, Aug. 5, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

Council meeting raised a storm on social media and condemnations from nongovernmental organizations. Tunisia, once lauded as the only budding democracy in the Arab world, has recently also seen a crackdown on opposition politicians and activists.

In a statement Thursday, the Tunisia-Africa Business Council denounced "racist practices ... spreading panic among sub-Saharan students in Tunisian universities." It said a "strong message" should be sent to reassure African students, and "clear instructions given to security forces to ensure security ... including the rights of foreigners."

Also Thursday, authorities in Kasserine, near Tunisia's western border with Algeria, said security forces have arrested 69 migrants of various nationalities in the past 48 hours for illegal entry. There are no official data on the number of sub-Saharan migrants in Tunisia, but a 2021 count estimated them at 21,000. Migrants mainly enter from Algeria and Libya, and usually want to continue their journey to Europe.

Presidential aide Walid Hajjem said Wednesday that planned measures for sub-Saharan migrants will not breach their human rights or hurt relations with African countries. □



# Consumer Price Index, base period June 2019

The Central Bureau of Statistics presents the most important findings for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of January 2023.

## Consumer Price Index for the month of January 2023

The CPI for January 2023 is 106.69, an increase of 0.3% compared to the index of December 2022 (106.37).

The percentage change of the CPI over the last twelve (12) months (January 2022 to January 2023) is 6.6, an increase of 3.3 percentage points (ppts) compared to the percentage change for the same period of last year (3.3%).

The period average (last 24 months) percentage change of the CPI for the periods February 2021 to January 2022 and February 2022 to January 2023 is 5.8%, an increase of 4.6 ppts compared to the period average percentage change over the periods February 2020 to January 2021 and February 2021 to January 2022 (1.2%).

During this month, seven (7) of the twelve (12) sectors registered increases in prices. The increases that had the greatest influence on the CPI were registered for the "Household operation" (6.7%) and "Housing" (1.0%) sectors, which contributed with an effect of 0.58 and 0.25 ppts, respectively. The increases in the remaining sectors had an effect of 0.37 ppts on the CPI of January 2023.

Aforementioned increases were partially offset mainly by decreases in the indices for the "Recreation and culture" (-4.4%) and "Clothing and footwear" (-9.1%) sectors, causing an effect of -0.43 and -0.23 ppts. The decreases in the remaining sectors had an effect of -0.25 ppts on the CPI of January 2023.

The increase in the "Household operation" sector was mainly due to an increase in the category "Household appliances" (12.1%), which contributed to an effect

of 0.28 ppts. The increase in the "Housing" sector was mainly due to an increase of 4.6% in the category "Maintenance and repair of the dwelling", which contributed to an effect of 0.24 ppts.

The decrease in the "Recreation and culture" sector was mainly due to a decrease in the category "Holidays" (-14.8%), which contributed to an effect of -0.44 ppts. The decrease in the "Clothing and footwear" sector was mainly due to a decrease in the category "Clothing" (-9.8%), which contributed to an effect of -0.19 ppts.

## Consumption basket

The consumption basket of the CPI consists of 408 goods and services. Compared to December 2022, 57.4% of these products had an increase in price, causing an effect of 1.88 ppts, while 32.6% showed a decrease, contributing to an effect of -1.58 ppts and the remaining 10.0% had no change in price. The prices of goods increased by 0.4% and caused an influence of 0.25 ppts. The prices of services showed an increase of 0.1% and had an influence of 0.05 ppts on the CPI of January 2023.

## Core inflation

The CPIC (core inflation) - CPI excluding the effect of energy and food - was 3.1% in January 2023. The energy index - which consists of the products: electricity, water, gasoline and diesel - was 15.1%. The food index showed an increase of 11.1%.

## Subsistence level

The subsistence level for a household consisting of two (2) adults and two (2) children (aged 0-15 years) in January 2023 is Afl. 5,363, a decrease of Afl. 13 compared to December 2022 (Afl. 5,376). The subsistence level for a single adult household is Afl. 2,554, a decrease of Afl. 6 compared to December 2022 (Afl. 2,560).

## Consumer Price Index

Table 1 Overview percentage change of the CPI														
	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	
Index	100.07	100.44	101.47	102.16	102.49	103.26	104.46	106.43	106.20	106.30	106.49	106.37	106.69	
Monthly	-0.5	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.2	1.9	-0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.3	
Year-to-date	-0.5	-0.2	0.9	1.5	1.9	2.6	3.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.7	0.3	
End of period	3.3	3.5	4.0	4.7	5.2	5.3	6.0	7.7	7.0	7.0	6.6	5.7	6.6	
Period average	1.2	1.7	2.1	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.7	4.3	4.7	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.8	
Goods	-0.6	0.1	1.6	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.6	3.2	-0.2	-0.3	1.4	-0.8	0.4	
Services	-0.5	0.7	0.2	0.5	-0.4	0.0	0.5	0.1	-0.3	0.7	-1.6	1.0	0.1	
CPIC	0.1	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	
Energy	7.5	8.2	8.7	8.8	8.7	9.0	9.5	10.8	11.9	12.8	13.5	14.2	15.1	
Food	0.4	1.2	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.1	6.1	7.1	8.0	9.0	9.7	10.5	11.1	
1 adult	2,343	2,348	2,372	2,382	2,403	2,414	2,440	2,513	2,528	2,529	2,553	2,560	2,554	
2 adults + 2 children	4,920	4,931	4,980	5,003	5,046	5,070	5,124	5,278	5,309	5,311	5,362	5,376	5,363	

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba



CPI (BASE JUN 2019 = 100)		
Index	↑	106.69
Monthly	↑	0.3
Year-to-date	↑	0.3
End of period	↑	6.6
Period average	↑	5.8
Goods	↑	0.4
Services	↑	0.1

CPIC (based on period average inflation)		
CPIC	↑	3.1
Energy	↑	15.1
Food	↑	11.1

SUBSISTENCE LEVEL in AFL		
1 adult	↓	2,554
2 adults + 2 children	↓	5,363
CPIC: CPI excluding the effect of energy and food.		
Energy: Electricity, water, gasoline and diesel.		
SUBSISTENCE LEVEL: The minimum level of income which is perceived necessary to achieve an adequate standard of living.		

Over the last 12 months, the CPI increased by 6.6%. Ten (10) of the twelve (12) sectors registered increases in prices. The increases that had the greatest influence on the CPI were registered for the "Housing" (12.4%), "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" (12.8%), "Transport" (9.6%) and "Household operation" (8.5%) sectors, which contributed with an effect of 3.09, 1.41, 1.27 and 0.77 ppts, respectively. The increases in the remaining sectors had an effect of 0.95 ppts on the CPI of January 2022 - January 2023.

Aforementioned increases were partially offset by decreases in the indices for the "Communications" (-6.8%) and "Clothing and footwear" (-11.0%) sectors, causing an effect of -0.57 and -0.30 ppts, respectively.

The increase in the "Housing" sector was mainly due to increases in the categories "Electricity, gas and other fuels" (23.0%) and "Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling" (19.0%), which contributed to an effect of respectively, 1.75 and 0.89 ppts. The increase in the "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" sector was mainly due to an increase in the category "Food" (12.8%), which contributed to an effect of 1.24 ppts. The increase in the "Transport" sector was mainly due to increases in the categories "Purchase of vehicles" (16.4%) and "Operation of personal transport equipment" (6.1%), which contributed to an effect of 0.75 and 0.50 ppts, respectively. The increase in the "Household operation" sector was mainly due to increases in the categories "Furniture, furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings" (35.0%) and "Goods and services for routine household maintenance and cleaning" (5.0%), which contributed to an effect of 0.31 and 0.21 ppts, respectively.

The decrease in the "Communications" sector was mainly due to a decrease in the category "Telephone and telefax services" (-6.6%), which contributed to an effect of -0.53 ppts. The decrease in the "Clothing and footwear" sector was mainly due to a decrease in the category "Clothing" (-12.3%), which contributed to an effect of -0.26 ppts.

## Consumption basket

Over the last year 69.4% of the products in the consumption basket had an increase in price, causing

an effect of 8.54 ppts, while 23.8% showed a decrease, contributing to an effect of -1.92 ppts and the remaining 6.9% had no change in price. The prices of goods increased by 10.3% and caused an influence of 5.96 ppts. The prices of services showed an increase of 1.6% and had an influence of 0.66 ppts.

## Subsistence level

Over the last 12 months, the subsistence level for a household consisting of two (2) adults and two (2) children (aged 0-15 years) registered an increase of Afl. 443, from Afl. 4,920 in January 2022 to Afl. 5,363 in January 2023. This increase was mainly due to increases in the "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" (Afl. 254) and "Housing" (Afl. 181) sectors. □



# LOCAL



## Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food



**PALM BEACH —** Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island's example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.

### Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you

want something special, a different flow than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

### Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: on Monday's and Friday's the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only; on Thursday's and Saturday's you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo and on Sunday's and Tuesday's Jose Herrera will enchants you with his keyboard talent. The musicians interact with the guests, requests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experience.

### Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too.” What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

### Make your reservation today at:

info@papillonaruba.com  
or call/WhatsApp + 00297 6995400  
Open Daily: 5pm – 10.00pm  
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For all menus and specials visit the website:  
[www.papillonaruba.com](http://www.papillonaruba.com)





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## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as

well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Barry Robb from Steubenville Ohio.

He wrote to us saying:  
"Aruba to me is like coming home!"

Thank you for sending us this sweet message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐



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Travellers' Choice 2020

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Website: [www.thewestdeck.com](http://www.thewestdeck.com)

Travellers' Choice 2020

**Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.**

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Augusto and his friend from Paraguay**, where they were seen enjoying the sandy beaches of Aruba. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

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[casinoalhambra.com](http://casinoalhambra.com)



## Today Is Going To Be A Good Day

Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more

to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

### Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even

free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle



snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website [www.arubanationalpark.org](http://www.arubanationalpark.org)

### The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. [www.arubalighthouse.com](http://www.arubalighthouse.com) will give you more information.

### Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook. □





## Prince Bernhard Caribbean Culture Funds looking for projects for 2023

**Prince Bernhard Caribbean Culture Funds informed via social media that they opened a registry for cultural projects, funds for talented kids and for the development and care of Aruba for their first round of 2023. The deadline to complete all requirements is April 1st.**

The Prince Bernhard Caribbean Culture Funds, better known as PBCCG, is a private and independent foundation with the goal to support different activities and funds within the 6 islands in the Dutch Caribbean—like Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, St. Maarten, St. Eustasius and Saba—through the concession of subsidy in order to maintain the culture and nature in these island countries. Their goal is also to help further develop the island and keep stimulating improvement.

Each year, they fund more than 170 private and institutional projects in different areas.

PBCCG is a modern way of cultural sponsorship, supporting especially the conservation and celebration of culture and nature, which can be described as a good cause within a good cause. A fund consists of specific goals for the culture and nature which aligns with the main goal of the organization.

The people who create a fund can do this in both life and death, by creating a fund in their name. The rules of the funds will be determined by PBCCG.

To apply for funding, you need to be able to demonstrate that your project aligns with the specifics of the fund. You would also need to be living in any of the 6 islands in the Dutch Kingdom and be able to develop projects in one or more areas.

Those that are not eligible for funding are the own government of the country, government departments, administrative departments and institutional education, especially if these are involved in political activities.

In terms of the projects themselves, they must be related to any of the 6 focus areas, which include History and Literature, Visual Arts, Theater, Music, Dance, Cultural Education, Cultural Conservation and Preservation of Monuments. These areas must consist of qualitative and sustainable characteristics directed to the public that take part in the local culture.

In June last year, the foundation announced that they have signed an agreement to create a new 'funds under a name' (FON) in Aruba, which will be under their management.

June 2nd of 2022 was a special day for the foundation, as they introduced this new project. The FON project means a fund created with the name of a company or individual. Currently, they have created a fund for the Koeman

family, where they will be providing opportunities for another group to receive subsidy, according to honorary board member Alice van Romondt.

Paola Koeman, representative for the Koeman family, indicated that her family considers art and culture on Aruba as an important area to further develop and support. They have received many petitions for cultural initiatives. For this reason, they have decided to lend a helping hand to the area of culture in Aruba in a structural way.

Koeman informed that they have decided to give support to PBCCG, where they will focus on stage art for children, platforms for musicians, dancers and story tellers—especially those groups that usually fade in the back ground.

Head of office for PBCCG, Melanie Slood, expressed that this organization supports art, culture and nature projects on the 6 islands within the Dutch Caribbean. Other organizations, families or individuals who are able could also create a FON, so they can give back to the community.

To make a petition, those interested with a plan for



a specific project in Aruba and who check all requirements can visit [www.pbc-caribbean.com](http://www.pbc-caribbean.com). □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Antlered animals
  - 1 Words to learn, for short
  - 6 Oxford parts
  - 11 Battery end
  - 12 Got up
  - 13 Seafood garnish
  - 14 Entice
  - 15 Bigwig, briefly
  - 16 Lynx or lion
  - 18 Deep hole
  - 19 Wing
  - 20 Shade
  - 21 Sheltered side
  - 22 Like many loaves
  - 24 Surrender
  - 25 Small amount
  - 27 Rowing team
  - 29 Spuds
  - 32 Brood watcher
  - 33 Heir, at times
  - 34 Catch some z's
  - 35 Colony member
  - 36 Works in a gallery
  - 37 Draw

W	O	W	E	D		J	A	M	I	E
A	N	I	M	E		E	R	O	D	E
D	E	N	I	M		S	T	O	O	L
		D	R	E	S	S	Y			
M	A	V		A	L	E		W	A	R
E	L	A	I	N	E		W	I	S	E
W	I	N	D	S	P	R	I	N	T	S
E	V	E	S		T	U	N	D	R	A
D	E	S		G	I	N		F	O	Y
		C	A	N	A	D	A			
T	O	P	A	Z		W	A	L	D	O
A	W	A	K	E		A	L	L	E	N
U	N	W	E	D		Y	E	S	N	O

Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Comet features
  - 2 "Ah, Wil-demess!" author
  - 3 Flattering
  - 4 Bother
  - 5 Taken out of the game
  - 6 Barista's creation
  - 7 "Right you —!"
  - 8 Like orange and blue
  - 9 Spotted car
  - 10 Sofa's kin
  - 17 Books reviewer
  - 23 Pasture grazer
  - 24 Director's cry
  - 26 Bach creation
  - 27 Deep ravines
  - 28 Airport car
  - 30 Job
  - 31 Goes 80
  - 33 Fresh
  - 39 Hair goo
  - 41 Shirt protector

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1						12			
3						14			
5				15	17			18	
9				20				21	
22			23				24		
		25				26			
27	28				29			30	31
32				33				34	
35				36				37	
38			39			40	41		
42						43			
44						45			

2-24

AXYDLBAAXR  
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

HTUKSM IEZZ KCR HCJM EW  
LM LUER WCB DCJM CRIMB  
TMB DCK CB EW LM LUER  
WCB DCJM CRIMB REJM

— XUBUHO CXUJU

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT IS AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH IF YOU DO NOT CARE WHO GETS THE CREDIT. HARRY S. TRUMAN

## Can college abroad actually save you money?

By ELIZA HAVERSTOCK of NerdWallet

When Emma Freer was a high school senior in 2011, her impression of American campus culture — sororities, football games, broad course requirements — didn't appeal. Her parents had saved enough money to cover her in-state tuition, but, she says, "I knew I didn't want to go to Ohio State."

College abroad offered a solution. Freer graduated from Scotland's University of St. Andrews in 2016, debt-free and with a master's degree in English and social anthropology.

"I got a really excellent academic education as well as a second education in travel, living abroad and being an outsider in a new culture," Freer says. "I never wished I had gone to school in the U.S."

Lured largely by promises



A man walks along the south bank of the River Thames backdropped by the Elizabeth Tower, known as Big Ben, of the Houses of Parliament, in London, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023.

Associated Press

of cheaper tuition, college-bound Americans are increasingly eyeing programs abroad.

Over the past five years, U.K. universities have seen the number of U.S. undergraduate applicants spike by 49%, according to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, which

manages the U.K. public university admissions system. The number of Americans studying in France has risen 5% over the past five years and jumped 50% from 2020 to 2021, according to Campus France, a French government agency that promotes higher education to foreign students. □

## Reality bites as Wall Street's rate cut dream disappears



Traders on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange watch Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's news conference after the Federal Reserve interest rate announcement in New York on Feb. 1, 2023.

Associated Press

Stan Choe

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — After a long staring contest between Wall Street and the Federal Reserve, investors blinked first. For months, Wall Street doubled down on bets that the Federal Reserve was bluffing about how far it would hike rates. Traders were even forecasting the Fed could begin cutting rates by the second half of this year, which can act like steroids for markets. Through it all, Fed officials kept saying that they would ultimately raise rates past levels investors were anticipating and leave them there until the fight against inflation was definitely over. They said no rate cuts would likely happen until 2024 at the earliest. Stakes were high in the standoff because higher rates can stamp out inflation, though at the risk of creating a recession because they slow the economy. □

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24/7



# Space telescope uncovers massive galaxies near cosmic dawn

By **MARCIA DUNN**

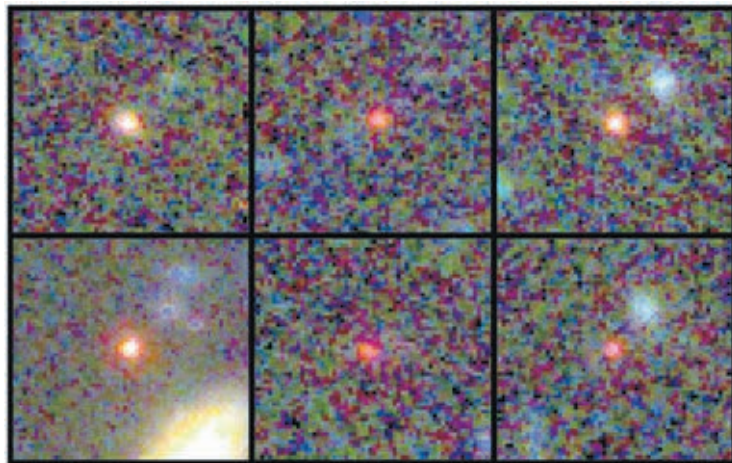
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — Astronomers have discovered what appear to be massive galaxies dating back to within 600 million years of the Big Bang, suggesting the early universe may have had a stellar fast-track that produced these “monsters.”

While the new James Webb Space Telescope has spotted even older galaxies, dating to within a mere 300 million years of the beginning of the universe, it's the size and maturity of these six apparent mega-galaxies that stunned scientists. They reported their findings Wednesday. Lead researcher Ivo Labbe of Australia's Swinburne University of Technology and his team expected to find little baby galaxies this close to the dawn of the universe not these whoppers. “While most galaxies in this era are still small and only gradually growing larger over time,” he said in an email, “there are a few monsters that fast-track to maturity. Why this is the case or how this would work is unknown.”

Each of the six objects looks to weigh billions of times more than our sun. In one of them, the total weight of all its stars may be as much as 100 billion times greater than our sun,



This image provided by NASA and the European Space Agency shows images of six candidate massive galaxies, seen 500-800 million years after the Big Bang.

Associated Press

according to the scientists, who published their findings in the journal Nature. Yet these galaxies are believed to be extremely compact, squeezing in as many stars as our own Milky Way, but in a relatively tiny slice of space, according to Labbe. Labbe said he and his team didn't think the results were real at first that there couldn't be galaxies as mature as the Milky Way so early in time and they still need to be confirmed. The objects appeared so big and bright that some members of the team thought they had made a mistake. “We were mind-blown, kind of incredulous,” Labbe said. The Pennsylvania State University's Joel Leja, who took part in the study, calls them “universe breakers.”

“The revelation that massive galaxy formation began extremely early in the history of the universe upends what many of us had thought was settled science,” Leja said in a statement.

“It turns out we found something so unexpected it actually creates problems for science. It calls the whole picture of early gal-

axy formation into question.” These galaxy observations were among the first data set that came from the \$10 billion Webb telescope, launched just over a year ago. NASA and the European Space Agency's Webb is considered the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope, coming up on the 33rd anniversary of its launch. □



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WK 51 Ocean view \$65,000  
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WK 7 and 14 - all views

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#### San Nicolas

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#### Oranjestad:

Eagle Tel. 587 9011

#### San Nicolas:

San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
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+297 588 0539

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Police	100
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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
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Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

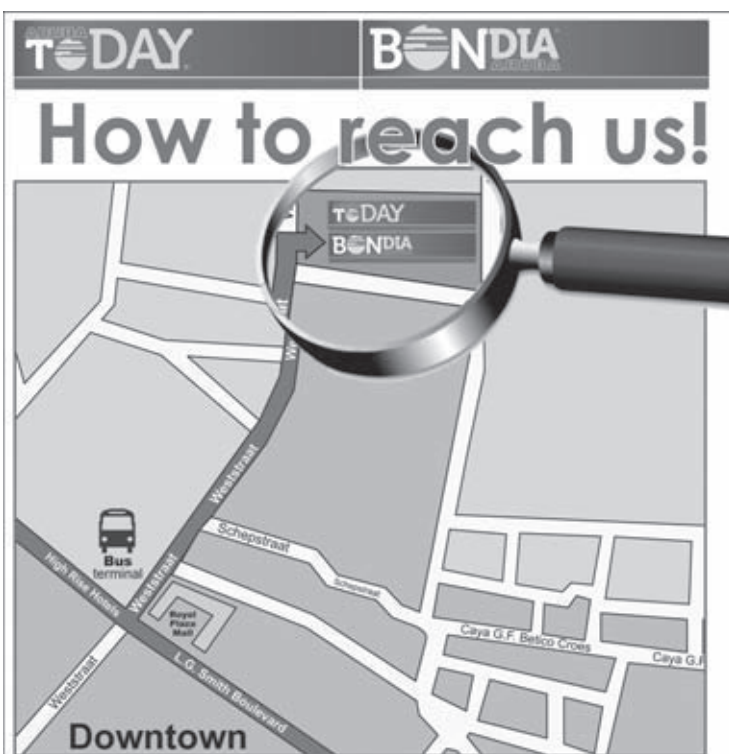
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# Dr. Seuss' 'How the Grinch stole Christmas!' gets a sequel

By **MARK PRATT**  
Associated Press

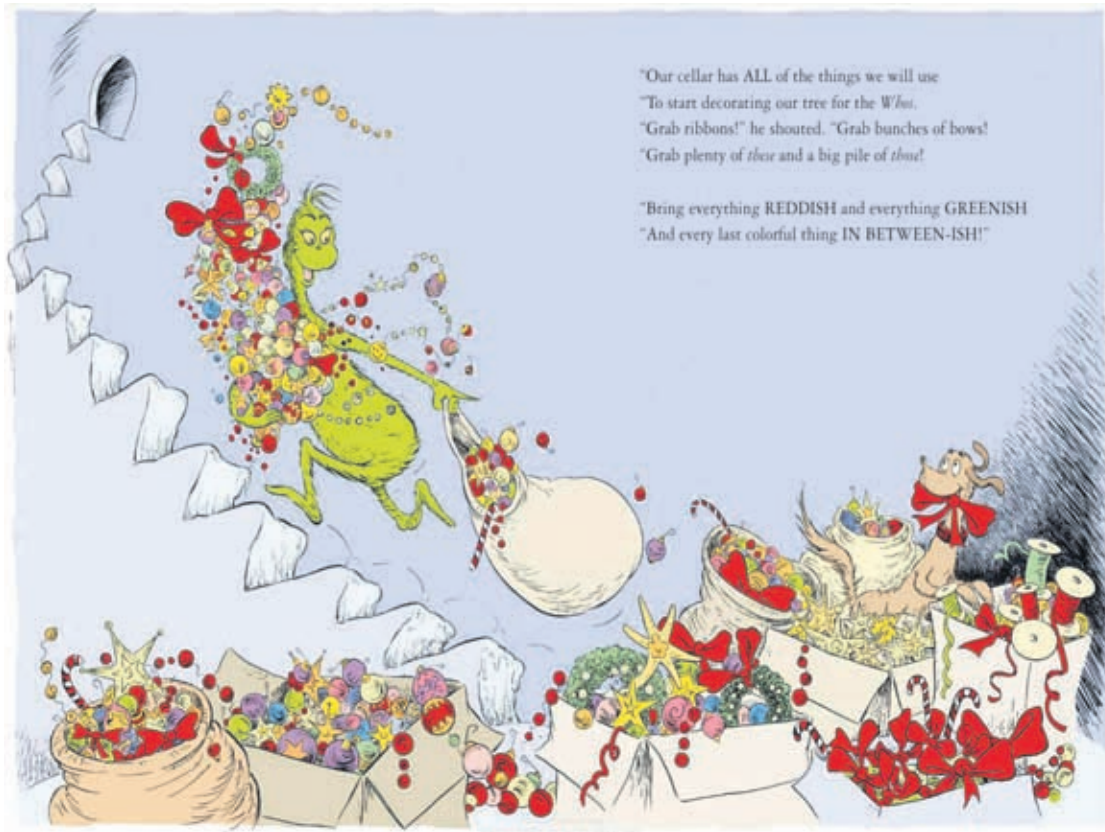
**BOSTON (AP)** — Dr. Seuss fans might find their hearts growing three sizes this coming holiday season with the release of a sequel to the 1957 classic children's book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

The new book picks up one year after the original, and like the first, teaches a valuable lesson about the true spirit of the holiday, Dr. Seuss Enterprises and Random House Children's Books announced Thursday.

The sequel entitled "How the Grinch Lost Christmas!" is not based on a newly discovered manuscript by Seuss whose real name was Theodor Geisel but was written and illustrated by an author and artist with previous experience in the Dr. Seuss universe.

"One of the most asked questions we receive from Seuss fans of all ages is 'What do you think happened to the Grinch after he stole Christmas?'" said Alice Jonaitis, executive editor at Random House Children's Books, in a statement.

The original Grinch book has sold nearly 10 million copies in North America alone and like other Seuss books has been translated into multiple languages. It was made into a 1966 ani-



**A recent undated image provided by Dr. Seuss Enterprises shows a page from the new book "How the Grinch Lost Christmas!" Seuss Enterprises, the company that owns the Dr. Seuss intellectual property, is releasing the sequel to the iconic children's book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"**

Associated Press

ated TV special narrated by Boris Karloff, a 2000 live-action movie starring Jim Carrey and a computer-animated film in 2018 with Benedict Cumberbatch voicing the Grinch.

The new book, scheduled for release Sept. 5, is written by Alastair Heim and illustrated by Aristides Ruiz. Heim has written Seuss-themed books like "If I Ran Your School" and "I Am the Cat in the Hat." Ruiz

has illustrated the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library books for more than two decades.

"All throughout writing the story, I couldn't fully believe that I was actually getting to play in the amazing creative sandbox Dr. Seuss created all those decades ago," Heim said in an email. Working on the Grinch sequel was an awesome responsibility, Ruiz said via email. "When I heard of the

opportunity to be a part of this project, I jumped at the chance only to find that it was difficult and daunting to approach adding to or expanding such an esteemed and treasured part of the American Christmas canon," he said.

In the original, the Grinch tries to ruin Christmas for the people of Who-ville by making off in the middle of the night with all the material trappings and sumptu-

ous food of the holiday. When the Whos gather to sing on Christmas morning, the Grinch realizes that the holiday is not about toys and feasting, but about joyously celebrating with family and neighbors and as Seuss wrote, the Grinch's "heart grew three sizes that day." In the sequel, the Grinch wants to show how much he loves the holiday by winning Who-ville's Christmas Crown with the most spectacular Christmas tree ever seen, according to Dr. Seuss Enterprises. But when his plan goes awry, the Grinch turns into his old, cold-hearted self, until his friend Cindy-Lou Who, reminds him that Christmas is not all about winning.

Geisel, who died in 1991 at age 87, authored dozens of books, including "Green Eggs and Ham" and "The Cat in the Hat."

Some of his work has been criticized in recent years because of racist imagery that in 2021 prompted Dr. Seuss Enterprises to cease publication of six books, including "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street" and "If I Ran the Zoo." But his work remains popular. Forbes magazine ranked him eighth on a 2022 list of the highest-paid dead celebrities, with \$32 million in earnings. □

# Anthem for Charles III's coronation written by Lloyd Webber

By **DANICA KIRKA**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Andrew Lloyd Webber, the English



**Britain's Prince Charles meets Andrew Lloyd Webber during a visit to the Royal Albert Hall to discuss the arts and creativity in school, in London, Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2018.**

Associated Press

composer who created the scores for blockbuster musicals such as "Cats," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Evita," has written the anthem for King Charles III's coronation, adapting a piece of church music that encourages singers to make a "joyful noise."

The work by Webber is one of a dozen new pieces Charles commissioned for the grand occasion taking place May 6 at Westminster Abbey. It includes words adapted from Psalm 98 and is scored specifically for the abbey's choir and organ.

"I hope my anthem reflects

this joyful occasion," Webber said in a statement distributed by Buckingham Palace.

The program for the king's coronation ceremony includes older music and new compositions as the palace seeks to blend traditional and modern elements that reflect the realities of modern Britain. New pieces were composed by artists with roots in all four of the United Kingdom's constituent nations, as well as in the Commonwealth and foreign countries that have sent so many people to its shores. The service will include works by

William Byrd (1543–1623), George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), Edward Elgar (1857–1934), Henry Walford Davies (1869–1941), William Walton (1902–1983), Hubert Parry (1848–1918) and Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958), whose music has featured in previous coronations, along with a piece from the contemporary Welsh composer Karl Jenkins.

There will also be new works by Sarah Class, Nigel Hess, Paul Mealor, Tarik O'Regan, Roxanna Panufnik, Shirley J. Thompson, Judith Weir, Roderick Williams and Debbie Wiseman. □



# MLB's bigger bases could lead to more steals, fewer injuries

By JAY COHEN

AP Baseball Writer

**PEORIA, Ariz. (AP)** — Like a violin virtuoso using a new music stand, San Diego Padres third baseman Manny Machado noticed a difference right away.

Not only are the bases bigger, but they feel different, too.

"It's definitely different, for sure," said Machado, a two-time Gold Glove winner. "They look better. I just got to kind of keep playing with it and stepping on it and kind of like getting the feel for it. But it's definitely different for sure."

The bigger bases going from 15- to 18-inch squares are part of a flurry of changes by Major League Baseball designed to put more action and athleticism back in the game and make it more appealing to a younger generation of potential fans.

When the new rules were adopted by baseball's 11-person competition committee in September, the four players on the panel supported the bigger bases and voted against the use of a pitch clock and limits on defensive shifts.

The new bases "They look like a pizza box," Red Sox manager Alex Cora



The new, larger base sits next to the older, smaller base at TD Ballpark Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023, in Dunedin, Fla.

cracked cut down the distance between the bases by 4 1/2 inches. The distance between third and home and home and first was trimmed by 3 inches. It doesn't sound like much, but the impact could be considerable.

Instead of waiting around for a three-run homer, big league teams could try a more aggressive approach on the basepaths. Coupled with new limits on what MLB calls disengagements pickoff attempts or steps

off the rubber it's more important than ever that pitchers are quick to the plate and strong-armed catchers stay alert with runners on.

"The run game, preventing the run game, is something that we've talked about, we're going to continue to talk about, because ... the stolen-base attempt should increase a good bit, I think," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Major league teams finished with 2,486 steals in

3,297 attempts last year, up from 2,214 steals and 2,926 attempts in 2021, according to Sportradar, but much lower than 3,229 steals and 4,365 attempts a decade ago in 2012.

In testing in the minors, two Triple-A leagues used the bigger bases for half of the 2021 season. One experienced a 2.2% increase in successful steals, and the other posted 0.7% increase. The 2012 season when Mike Trout led the majors with 49 stolen bases was the last

time the big leagues surpassed 3,000 steals and 4,000 attempts.

"I've definitely been thrown out by less than (4 1/2) inches ... so maybe that starts factoring into results," said Chicago Cubs second baseman Nico Hoerner, who swiped a career-best 20 bases in 22 attempts last year.

Of course, it also gives the majors' top defensive first basemen an even better chance of keeping runners off base altogether.

"I think it could help. It'll give me another inch or so of reach on a throw that wants to pull me off the base," said Arizona Diamondbacks first baseman Christian Walker, who won his first Gold Glove last year. Besides the activity on the basepaths, Major League Baseball is hoping the change will help reduce injuries. While testing the bigger bases in the minors, there was a 13% decline in what the league calls "injury events near the bases" from 2021 to 2022.

There's more room for first basemen to avoid getting stepped on, or to pull their arm away in time to avoid a batter hustling up the line. It also should help avoid collisions all over the diamond. □

Associated Press

# U.S. women win SheBelieves Cup with 2-1 victory over Brazil

**FRISCO, Texas (AP)** — Alex Morgan and Mallory Swanson scored and the United States defeated Brazil 2-1 on Wednesday night to win the SheBelieves Cup for the fourth straight year.

Japan, which defeated Canada 3-0 in the earlier match at Toyota Stadium, was runner-up in the four-team, round-robin tournament. All four SheBelieves Cup teams will play in Women's World Cup this summer in Australia and New Zealand.

Morgan's curling goal sailed out of reach of Brazilian goalkeeper Lorena. Morgan now has five goals all-time in SheBelieves matches.

It was Morgan's 14th goal since the birth of her daughter in 2020, giving her the national team record for most goals as a mom.

"That was huge," Swanson said. "I think we needed it, we needed the momentum to kind of shift in our favor. (It was) Alex doing Alex things. Simple, left foot, classic. She was getting beat up all first half and ultimately she punished them." Swanson scored in the 63rd minute, her fourth goal of the tournament and seventh overall goal this year, matching her total of all of last year.

"I think honestly it's been a good run. I've really just tried to focus on being pres-

ent and just taking it day by day, game by game," Swanson said.

Swanson, formerly Mallory Pugh, married Chicago Cubs shortstop Dansby Swanson in December. Ludmila scored in stoppage time for Brazil to avoid the shutout.

It was the first goal the United States has allowed this year. The United States is undefeated in five overall matches.

"We need to be on the same page. But not only when it comes to reading the game, but also the emotional game, we need to be on the same page. If we can do that, I think we'll have a great World Cup. If

we can't, it will be very difficult. So that's why I'm saying we have a long way to go,"

Brazil coach Pia Sundhage

said. Midfielder Rose Lavelle started for the United States after missing the first two matches of the tournament with a minor injury. □



United States women's soccer team lifts up and celebrates the SheBelieves Cup after winning the soccer match against Brazil 2-0 Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, in Frisco, Texas.

Associated Press



# PGA Tour money makes it tough on LIV players' Ryder hopes

By **DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

Players who joined Saudi-funded LIV Golf can still play in all the majors — and qualify for the Ryder Cup — now that the PGA Championship and British Open have announced only minor tweaks to existing criteria.

But the main avenue to golf's biggest events still start with the PGA Tour, and that might become increasingly difficult for most LIV Golf players.

As for the Ryder Cup, LIV players such as Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka and Patrick Reed likely would need to win at least one major to have any chance of earning one of the six automatic spots on the U.S. team for the Sept. 28-30 matches in Italy.

The qualifying system is 1 point earned for every \$1,000 won in PGA Tour events this year, with 1.5 points at the majors and double points for winning a major. "Any PGA of America member who is a U.S.-born player will be eligible to earn points," Kerry Haigh, the PGA of America's chief championships officer, said in an interview. "If the only events they get in are the majors, they would need to win one or more, or finish high in a couple of others. "Knowing where that sixth place is will be difficult to predict," he said. "This year



**Keith Mitchell hits from the ninth tee during the final round of the Genesis Invitational golf tournament at Riviera Country Club, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.**

Associated Press

has significantly different prize money."

Haigh was alluding to 10 PGA Tour events that have a \$20 million purse at least double what they were two years ago plus The Players Championship at \$25 million. LIV players are not eligible for any of those events because the tour has suspended them. The four majors have not announced their prize funds yet.

Johnson currently is No. 14 in the Ryder Cup standings. He is three spots behind Keith Mitchell, who was No. 25 until he finished

fifth at Riviera last week and earned \$820,000 (820 points).

That's one example of the movement available in the \$20 million tournaments. The PGA Championship on Wednesday became the last major organization to weigh in, adding one category for three players from the new International Federation Ranking list for tours in Japan, Asia, South Africa and Australia.

The top three will be determined on April 24. The current leaders include Sihwan Kim, who plays for LIV Golf, and Shaun Norris, who

played an entire LIV Golf season last year but is not part of the 48-man roster this year.

The majority of the PGA Championship field comes from the PGA Tour, either through winning or the money list. Officials also rely on special invitations, a vague term that presumably relies on the world ranking. The reputation of the PGA Championship has been to have the strongest field of the four majors. "The PGA of America also reserves the right to invite additional players ... in pursuit of our annual goal to

deliver the strongest field in golf," it said in a statement. But even if it leans on the world ranking, that might not work in LIV's favor.

The league has filed an application with the Official World Golf Ranking board and still has not received notice when it might get approved. Even then, ranking points would be significantly less than those for the PGA Tour because of the 48-man LIV fields and only six players currently in the top 50.

Of the 20 players from LIV Golf currently in the top 100, eight of them are at No. 75 and lower, and likely to keep dropping.

Haigh said the PGA of America would consider LIV Golf as it would other circuits.

"We look at other tours, money lists and rankings as we have done in the past and will do in the future," he said. "It doesn't stop us from seeing other good players."

Asked if the PGA of America would consider LIV players, Haigh replied, "Absolutely." Seth Waugh, the CEO of the PGA of America, said decisions are based on the best interest of the association and running the best championship possible.

"Sadly the current division in the professional game is not good for the sport or the future of the game," Waugh said. □

## McEnroe, Borg returning as Laver Cup captains in Vancouver

**NEW YORK (AP)** — John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg will return as Laver Cup captains this year, when the team event moves to Canada for the first time. McEnroe will lead Team World against Borg's Team Europe at Rogers Arena in Vancouver from Sept. 22-24.

The only player named to either six-man roster so far is Felix Auger-Aliassime, a 22-year-old from Montreal who is currently No. 9 in the ATP rankings. His best Grand Slam result was

reaching the semifinals at the 2021 U.S. Open.

Auger-Aliassime helped begin the comeback on Day 3 of the Laver Cup in London last September marked by Roger Federer's final match, a doubles loss alongside longtime rival Rafael Nadal when Team World finally beat Team Europe after losing each of the initial four editions of the event.

Auger-Aliassime paired with Jack Sock to win a doubles match, then beat Novak Djokovic in singles,

before Frances Tiafoe's victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas clinched the outcome.

"Felix was our MVP last year. He really turned the tide for us, big time," McEnroe said in a video press conference on Thursday. "It's a no-brainer to have Felix on the team. I think he's going to win a major in the next year 18 months at the most."

Ticket packages for the Laver Cup, which was founded by Federer's management company, go on sale March 3. □



**Team Europe's Captain Bjorn Borg, left, chats with Team World's captain John McEnroe, on the second day of the Laver Cup tennis tournament at the O2 in London, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022.**

Associated Press